(c) what measures are being taken by Government to collect accurate data and verify them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI UTTAMBHAI H. PATEL): (a) There is no proposal under Government's consideration to ease the concentration of labour in the Rural Agricultural Sector.

(b) The percentage of rural agricultural labour to the population of India based on 1991 census was 8.34 per cent.

(c) Population census data are collected through the decennial census conducted by the office of the census Commissioner and Registrar general of India as per prescribed instructions and methodology and there is built-in provision for supervision and verificaton of data.

Rural Development and Poverty Alleviation Plan

2405. SHRI SUNIL BASU RAY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what are the Goverment's proposal for rural development and poverty alleviation;

(b) whether National Development Council discussed the issue in its last meeting; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI UTTAMBHAI H. PATEL): (a) Government of India proposes to continue its efforts for rural development and poverty alleviation on a larger scale during the Eighth Five Year Plan. The two major centrally sponsored poverty alleviation programmes being Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP) and Jawahar Rozgar Yojana (JRY). The objective of IRDP is to create self-employment by providing productive assets and inputs to enable identified rural poor families to cross the poverty line. Assets are to be provided to small and marginal farmers, agricultural labourers and rural artisans having income below the poverty line. The poverty line has been revised from Rs. 6,400 to Rs. 11,000 for the Eighth Plan.

Another major programme i.e. Jawahar Rozgar Yojana (JRY) is also being implemented with the main objective of providing gainful employment to the rural poor. The plan outlay for the Ministry of Rural Development has been stopped up from Rs. 10,955 crores during the Seventh Plan to Rs. 30,000 crore during the Eighth Five Year Plan.

(b) and (c) During the VIII Plan, proposals are under way in consultation with the State Governments, for revamping the Rural Development Schemes particularly in the context of the 'the Basket of Schemes' mentioned by Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission at the meeting of National Development Council (NDC).

Development of villages by voluntary Agencies

2406. SHRI KAMAL MORARKA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Prime Minister made a statement in December last year requesting the voluntary agencies to come forward and adopt group of villages for comprehensive development;

(b) whether Government have prepared any blue print and plan of action of the scheme;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether any response has been received on the scheme from the NGO's;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) what is Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI UTTAMBHAI H. PATEL): (a) to (f) In the Conference on Accelerating Socio-Economic Rural